

AGENDA



Thursday, August 7, 2008

**Public Hearings and Possible Actions
RECOMMENDATION FOR COUNCIL ACTION****Item No. 93**

Subject: Conduct a public hearing and consider an ordinance adopting new floodplain maps and amending City Code Section 25-12-3 (Local Amendments to the Building Code), and Section 25-12-243 (Local Amendments to the Residential Code) to update the floodplain maps.

Fiscal Note: There is no unanticipated fiscal impact. A fiscal note is not required.

For More Information: Mapi Vigil, P.E., 974-3384; Susan Janek, P.E., 974-3327; Ray Windsor, CFM, 974-3362; Fang Yu, P.E., 974-3580

Boards and Commission Action: Recommended by the Building and Fire Code Board.

Prior Council Action: September 28, 2000 and September 30, 2004 - Acceptance of a FEMA grant for certain hydraulic and hydrologic studies and mapping under a Memorandum of Agreement. September 30, 2004 - Approval of an amendment to the Agreement providing for the production of additional floodplain data and maps for several watersheds located in the City of Austin.

The City of Austin participates in the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) National Flood Insurance Program. The program's purposes are to indemnify individuals from flood losses by providing access to flood insurance, to reduce future flood damages through community floodplain management regulations and to reduce costs for disaster assistance and flood control. Accurate and current floodplain maps are a crucial element of floodplain management.

FEMA's Travis County Map Modernization project was initiated in October 2003. This project is nearing final completion and entailed the development of GIS-based hydrologic and hydraulic models of 26 watersheds in the City of Austin and the re-mapping of the floodplains for the remaining 40 City watersheds. This effort was one of the first studies under the FEMA Map Modernization Program that produced completely digital flood insurance study and mapping projects. Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) are replacing the current (paper) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) and will include database information related to the underlying base maps and technical data.